

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for inserting an item into a receptacle using an apparatus having a hollow cylindrical tube section having a first opening and a second opening and a hollow flared section having a narrow opening and a wide opening, the narrow opening being connected to the first opening, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning a receptacle over an exterior surface of the cylindrical tube section adjacent the second opening;

inserting the item within the flared section via the wide opening; and

sliding the item through the narrow opening of the flared section, through the cylindrical tube section, and within the receptacle,

wherein the item is a rolled, elongated sheet of material that is rolled such that a terminal edge of the elongated sheet is located on an exterior surface of the rolled item, and

wherein said method further comprises the step of rotating the item as the item is inserted within the flared section, where the item is rotated in a direction opposite a direction of rolling of the item such that the terminal edge of the elongated sheet is maintained flat against the exterior surface of the rolled item, where the direction of rolling of the item is defined as a direction of outward spiraling from an end provided at a center of the rolled item.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for inserting an item that is a rolled, elongated sheet of material into a receptacle using an apparatus having a hollow cylindrical tube section having a first opening and a second opening and a hollow flared section having a narrow opening and a wide opening, the narrow opening being connected to the first opening, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning a receptacle over an exterior surface of the cylindrical tube section adjacent the second opening;

inserting the item within the flared section via the wide opening; and

sliding the item through the narrow opening of the flared section, through the cylindrical tube section, and within the receptacle,

wherein said method further comprises the step of rotating the item as the item is inserted within the flared section.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for inserting an item that is a rolled, elongated sheet of material into a receptacle using an apparatus having a hollow cylindrical tube section having a first opening and a second opening and a hollow flared section having a narrow opening and a wide opening, the narrow opening being connected to the first opening, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning a receptacle over an exterior surface of the cylindrical tube section adjacent the second opening;

inserting the item within the flared section via the wide opening; and

sliding the item through the narrow opening of the flared section, through the cylindrical tube section, and within the receptacle,

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wherein said method further comprises the step of rotating the item as the item is slid through the cylindrical tube section.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the step of aligning the item at a predetermined orientation within the receptacle.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the step of mounting said apparatus to a stationary structure.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the receptacle is a bag.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the receptacle is a sleeve.

9.-19. (Canceled)
